

**Minutes of Flowerbeds Committee Meeting
held on 2 October 2023 at 3.45pm
in Old Franks.**

Present:

Mrs. M Jackson (Chair MJ), Sam Ashenden (SA),
Mrs. B Donald (BD), Dr. Graham Mott (GM), Mrs. S Waite (SW)
and Mrs. L Johnson (Parish Clerk LJ).

Members of the public: none.

- 1. Proposal MJ is elected Chair of the Flowerbed Committee.**
GM proposed, SW seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Mr. A Hathaway (AH).
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** None.
- 4. Open to the public.** None.
- 5. Approval of Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2023 were agreed by the committee as a true record and signed by the Chair.
- 6. Matters arising from the last meeting.**
 - 6.1. Repairs to flowerbed on the corner of Robin Hood Road.**
The repairs to the flowerbox will be carried out before the winter planting. EPC agreed to the request for an extra £500 to cover the repairs.
 - 6.2. The nesting box in the Memorial Garden.**
MJ to check with AH if the nesting box has been re-located.
 - 6.3. Bloor Homes.**
EPC are holding a meeting with Bloor on 4 October. The provision of Bloor providing a second flowerbox is on the agenda.
 - 6.4. Pesticides Policy.**
EPC has now adopted the Pesticides Policy. The use of vinegar-based weed killer will be introduced into the grass cutting contract from April 2024. BD has asked for a map from UDC showing all the grass areas in Elsenham they are responsible for. It is hoped that UDC will work with EPC and observe the EPC Pesticides Policy.
 - 6.5. Flowerbed Committee Terms of Reference.**
Members agreed to amend the Terms of Reference to include hanging baskets and bulbs.
4C) Determine and approve expenditure associated with the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the flower beds that fall within the committee's responsibilities and within the limits of the committee's approved annual budget.

Determine and approve expenditure associated with the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the flower beds, hanging baskets and bulbs that fall within the committee's responsibilities and within the limits of the committee's approved annual budget.

7. Budgets.

4260 FB General Maintenance has £1,705 remaining in the budget.

The budgets for 2024/25 need to be agreed before the end of November 2023.

The EMR, which is the donation from Golf World, has £404 remaining.

8. Bulb planting project.

Half the bulbs were planted last year before the snow came. The remaining bulbs were stored in MJ garage, unfortunately, they did not survive the winter. MJ has replaced them herself. More daffodil bulbs need to be purchased. These are to be planted down the lefthand side of the playing field road leading down to the lower car park. It was agreed to plant these on 30 October 2023.

9. Memorial Garden.

The peace roses along the back of the Memorial Garden need replacing as they are dying. The cost is £8 per rose bush, plus the fertilizer, totaling £540.

All the old roses will be taken out and the soil turned over. The new roses will be planted in between where the original roses were.

10. Winter Planting 2023.

The winter plants will be winter pansies. These will be planted before the Remembrance Day service.

11. Summer Planting 2024.

The perennials have been a great success this year. In 2024 more perennials could be purchased to fill the flowerbeds, lavender could also be added.

MJ will buy the plants from Perrys. Some suggestions were cherry shrubs and dogwood. The 3 diamond beds and the bed on the corner of Robin Hood Road are sponsored by Golf World, so plants for these should be purchased with funds from the EMR.

12. Five Year Plan update.

This is a working document; items can be added.

Year I of the five-year plan had been very successful. The only item outstanding was New Flowerbeds at Bloor Homes site, which is still ongoing.

Year 1: 2023-2024.

- Bulbs planting – Memorial Garden.
- Introducing perennials into flowerbeds at Leigh Drive – Verbena, Lavender, Ornamental Grasses.
- Replace the roses in the diamond beds at the Memorial Garden.
- Summer Planting- Begonias/Geraniums.
- New Flowerbeds (2) at Bloor Homes site?
- Removal of existing flowerbeds at Henham Road.
- Treat/protect/replace wood of flowerbeds.
 - Diamond beds.
 - Robin Hood Road.

- Leigh Drive.
 - Broom Farm.
 - The Station.
 - Repairing flowerbed Robin Hood Road.
 - Started Spring 2023.
 - Complete Autumn 2023.
 - Winter planting – pansies.
 - Spring bulbs.
 - De-Mandeville.
 - The Spinney.
 - Memorial Garden.
 - Consider opportunities for new flowerbeds/hanging baskets/bulb planting.
 - Investigate new opportunities for sponsorship.
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Year 2: 2024-2025.

- Introducing perennials into Broom Farm.
 - Increase perennials in Robin Hood Road.
 - Treat/protect/replace wood of flowerbeds.
 - Summer planting.
 - Spring bulb planting.
 - Consider opportunities for new flowerbeds/hanging baskets/bulb planting.
 - Investigate new opportunities for sponsorship.
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Year 3: 2025 – 2026.

- Introducing perennials into Broom Farm.
 - Increase perennials in Robin Hood Road.
 - Treat/protect/replace wood of flowerbeds.
 - Summer planting.
 - Spring bulb planting.
 - Consider opportunities for new flowerbeds/hanging baskets/bulb planting.
 - Investigate new opportunities for sponsorship.
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Year 4: 2026 -2027.

- Introducing perennials into Broom Farm.
 - Increase perennials in Robin Hood Road.
 - Treat/protect/replace wood of flowerbeds.
 - Summer planting.
 - Spring bulb planting.
 - Consider opportunities for new flowerbeds/hanging baskets/bulb planting.
 - Investigate new opportunities for sponsorship.
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Year 5: 2027-2028.

- Introducing perennials into Broom Farm.
 - Increase perennials in Robin Hood Road.
 - Treat/protect/replace wood of flowerbeds.
 - Summer planting.
 - Spring bulb planting.
 - Consider opportunities for new flowerbeds/hanging baskets/bulb planting.
 - Investigate new opportunities for sponsorship.
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Additional Notes.

Contract renewal.

Register/contract groups for volunteers.

13. Any Other Business.

SA said she still had to treat the wood on the flowerbed on Broom Farm.

It had been suggested that the De-Mandeville grass area could be left uncut and wildflowers seeds could be planted. This is EROWOS's domain. LJ to liaise with EROWOS to see if they would be agreeable to this, the Flowerbed Committee would pay for the seeds. BD to source the wildflower seeds.

14. Date of Next Meeting.

13 November 2023.

The meeting finished at 4.30pm.